January 3, 1968

Dear Mr. Hosmer,

This will confirm my $100 offer to come out here and talk with me next Tuesday. I can assure you that it will be an interesting and fruitful conversation.

I am a 40 year old graduate of the University of Chattanooga who had never before been in any trouble or in any mental institution prior to March 26, 1965 when I cracked up and robbed a branch bank in my home town Chattanooga, Tenn. and subsequently kidnapped a prominent local physician. The doctor saved my life by grabbing the uncocked gun out of my hand 6 hours after the bank robbery on a dead end street in Rome, Ga. He publically said that night "He had an unrequited love and wanted to die, but I didn't want to die with him. That boy wouldn't hurt anybody. He treated me like a gentleman the whole time except when the officers closed in."

The day after the crime the Chattanooga News Free Press ran a front page story concerning certain investigative work that I had done concerning the Kennedy assassination.

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I had done this investigative work in Sept. & Oct of 1964 at the direction of the then Chairman of the Republican Party for the state of Tennessee Mr. Harry Easterly, and the results were known to a number of people in Chattanooga Nashville, and elsewhere including the editor of the News Free Press.

On Nov. 19, 1965 I told the entire story under oath in federal court in Chattanooga at a mental competency hearing and I was not cross examined on it by anyone because they knew that I was telling the truth. Moments later I was declared mentally competent to stand trial by Judge Frank Wilson and a trial date of Dec. 15th was set. I made a public disclosure of this information in an effort to prevent being railroaded into some mental institution because of it. I was aware of the fact that I could have been railroaded into a mental institution after having been found not guilty by reason of temporary insanity.

At the request of the United States Attorney before I had entered any plea I was given a psychiatric examination by one psychiatrist in Chattanooga. I did not try to put on the big act before this man and I told him everything that happened. I did not once mention the Kennedy assassination I felt like all I had to do was simply tell the truth and

I would stand a good chance of being acquitted because both local papers were behind me and I think people realized that I had simply reached the breaking point and was temporally out of my mind when I went into the bank.

This psychiatrist for reasons best known to himself found me to be suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and in need of "prolonged psychiatric care and treatment." The report stated that "while he may have known the difference between right and wrong his ability to adhere to the right was so impaired as to be virtually non existant." On the basis of this report I was declared mentally incompetent on June 3, 1965 and sent to Springfield under section 4246. Three months later I was found to be mentally competent by the psychiatric staff here. (I had filed a writ of habeas corpus stating that I was mentally competent)

When on Dec. 8, 1965 I had tried to dismiss my two court appointed lawyers for among other things turning over to the prosecution the list of all my witnesses with a capsule description of how I thought each would testify plus the realization that they were going to lay the groundwork to have me railroaded into a mental institution after I had been found not guilty by reason of temporary insanity, Judge Wilson refused to dismiss them and insisted going ahead with me still

another one making a total of three.

My trial was postponed to Jan 10th and when I voiced objection to the first two representing me another mental competency ensued culminating in my being found mentally incompetent for the second time on Feb 3, 1966. I was sent to St. Elizabeth's Hospital this time and two months after I arrived there I was found to be mentally competent by the psychiatric staff. Dr. Blum told me to my face that I was in no further need of hospitalization. Their psychiatric report stated that the crime was caused by the mental illness.

Despite having been twice declared mentally incompetent I was put on trial on Sept. 13, 1966. Before the start of the trial I was denied the right to hire a private lawyer to represent me, then again denied my Constitutional right to represent myself but instead forced to trial with two court appointed lawyers (Mr. Grady was allowed to withdraw on Feb. 14, 1966) that I did not want and had been trying for months to dismiss. This of course was a mockery of my Constitutional rights and it is clear to anyone that I am being held illegally. These two lawyers, believe it or not, would not call one single corroborating witness to testify in my behalf. The Kennedy assassination was mentioned four or five times at the trial which was an error. I took the witness stand and talked for two hours. I testified that the crime was caused by an irresistible impulse. I was not even cross-examined. I was found guilty and given 15 years. Mr. Lesser talked with me about [illegible] Very Truly Yours